

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed October 31, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 7-8, 16-17, 28 and 33 have been allowed. Claims 9, 18, 22, 23 and 36 have been objected and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As a result, claims 1, 4, 10, 19, 22, 24, 29 and 34 have been amended. Claims 9, 11-12, 18, 20-21, 23, 25-26, 30 and 35-36 are cancelled without prejudice. More specifically, independent claims 1, 10, 19 and 34 have been amended to include limitations associated with claims 9, 18, 23, and 36, respectively. Claims 9, 18, 23 and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 24 and 29 have been amended to include limitations within objected claim 9 and allowed claim 28. Applicants respectfully request the allowance of independent claims 1, 10, 19, 24, 29 and 34 and those claims that depend therefrom.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 13-15, 19, 24, 27, 29, 31-32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and §103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in their entirety because *prima facie* cases of anticipation and obviousness have not been established. However, based on the amendments set forth above, further discussion of the grounds for traversing the rejections is not warranted.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and §103(a).

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.